IDW

2

COVER A

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

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SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG BAD GUYS

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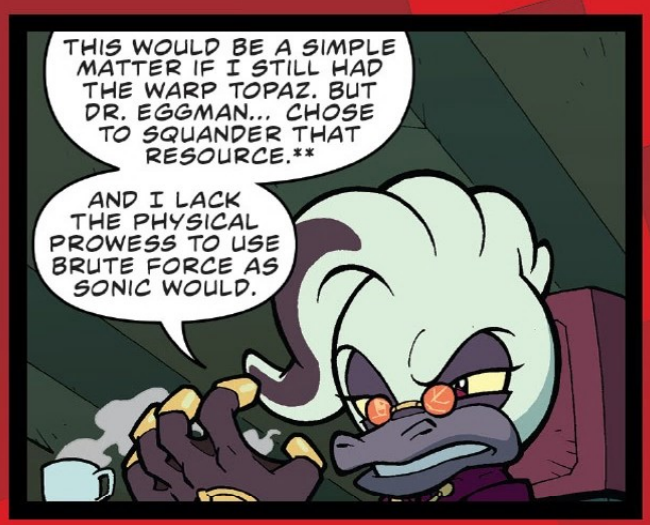
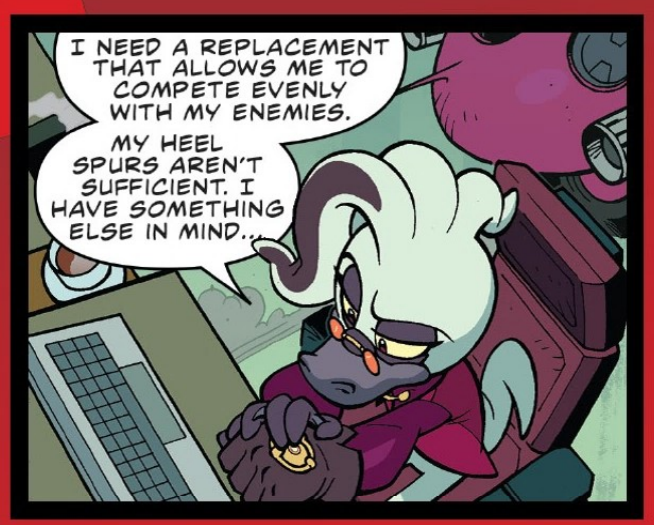
STORY SO FAR

NO MATTER. I'LL JUST WARP BACK TO BASE, REGROUP, AND...

...DRAT. FORCE OF HABIT.


THIS WOULD BE A SIMPLE MATTER IF I STILL HAD THE WARP TOPAZ. BUT DR. EGGMAN... CHOSE TO SQUANDER THAT RESOURCE.**
AND I LACK THE PHYSICAL PROWESS TO USE BRUTE FORCE AS SONIC WOULD.


I NEED A REPLACEMENT THAT ALLOWS ME TO COMPETE EVENLY WITH MY ENEMIES.
MY HEEL SPURS AREN'T SUFFICIENT. I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND...

IF THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO HATED THE DOCTOR AND SONIC MUTUALLY...
...I COULD POTENTIALLY SWAY THEM...
...AND THEN DISPOSE OF THEM.

MY MISTAKE WAS FOLLOWING THE WRONG LEADER. DR. EGGMAN DEPLOYED THE METAL VIRUS HAPHAZARDLY, LETTING IT SPREAD AT RANDOM. THE MINUTE HE LOST CONTROL, HE ABANDONED HIS AMBITIONS.
BUT YOU? *YOU* TOOK COMMAND OF THE SITUATION INSTANTLY! *YOU* TOOK COMMAND OF THE ZOMBOTS WITH RUTHLESS EFFICIENCY. *YOU* MAXIMIZED THE POWER OF THE CHAOS EMERALDS INSTEAD OF SQUANDERING THEIR POTENTIAL!
YOU ARE EVERYTHING I ADMIRED IN DR. EGGMAN AND MORE!

STUPENDOUS DEBUT, EVERYONE. NOW THAT WE'RE WARMED UP, LET'S DO SOME *REAL* *DAMAGE!*

DR. STARLINE
Threat Level: 7/10
Disgraced Dr. Eggman protégé.

ZAVOK
Threat Level: 10/10
Plan to take over the world ruined, in part, by Eggman.

MIMIC
Threat Level: 8/10
Failed mercenary on the run.

ROUGH
Threat Level: 3/10
Occasional Eggman lackey, just along for the ride.

TUMBLE
Threat Level: 3/10
Occasional Eggman lackey, in it for the weapons.

"I'VE ASSEMBLED QUITE THE MOTLEY CREW.

"MIMIC, THE EXPERT INFILTRATOR...

"...TUMBLE, A POWERFUL OAF...

"...ROUGH, A VICIOUS SCOUNDREL...

"...AND ZAVOK, THE FEARSOME LEADER OF THE DEADLY SIX."

EVERY ONE OF THEM THINKS WE'RE IN THIS TO GET REVENGE ON DR. EGGMAN.

BUT *NONE* OF THEM SUSPECT THEY'RE ALL JUST PARTS IN A MUCH LARGER PLAN TO PUT ME BACK IN HIS GOOD GRACES.

SOON THE NAME "*DR. STARLINE*" WILL BE WELCOME IN THE EGGMAN EMPIRE ONCE AGAIN!

BUT FIRST, I NEED THE POWER TO KEEP PACE IN A WORLD OF SUPERSONIC HEDGEHOGS...

EARLIER.

POWER

FLY

SPEED

THESE ARE OUR TARGETS, GENTLEMEN. *POWER CORES.*

HA! WHAT'RE WE S'POSED TO DO WITH THOSE? BUILD A BALL PIT?

WE'VE BEEN BANNED FROM ALL OF 'EM 'CAUSE WE KEEP KICKIN' OUT ALL THE KIDS.

THEY WANT THE TURF? THEY GOTTA *FIGHT* FOR IT.

THAT'S EGGMAN TECH, ISN'T IT?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO GET ME *OFF* HIS RADAR, NOT TICK HIM OFF MORE.

WE *NEED* THEIR POWER FOR PHASE TWO OF THE PLAN. *THEN* YOU'LL BE ERASED FROM HIS RECORDS, *NOT* BEFORE.

WHAT DO THESE CORES DO?

POWER
FLY
SPEED
THEY'RE CONCENTRATED ENERGY USED BY A VARIETY OF MACHINES IN THE EGGMAN EMPIRE.
WHEN PROPERLY HARNESSED, THEY AMPLIFY THE USER'S PHYSICAL ABILITIES.
IN YOUR CASE, A RED POWER CORE CAN DOUBLE YOUR ALREADY INCREDIBLE STRENGTH, SIR.
INDEED? AND HOW DO WE HARNESS THEIR POWER?
JUST BY TOUCHING THEIR E.M. CASINGS, BUT YOU DON'T KNOW THAT.
THROUGH SPECIAL ADAPTORS I WILL BUILD AND SUPPLY YOU WITH.
POWER IS FLEETING. *HOW* DOES THIS GET ME CLOSER TO DISAPPEARING?
I EXPECTED TO HAVE TO SPELL THINGS OUT FOR ROUGH AND TUMBLE, BUT I'M SURPRISED *YOU'RE* HAVING TROUBLE STRINGING IT TOGETHER.
DON'T PUSH ME, DOC.
HE'S SAYIN' ARM-HEAD IS AS DUMB AS US! WHAT A LOSER!
HAW!

VERY WELL. PHASE TWO OF THE PLAN HAS US INFILTRATING ONE OF THE VERY FEW EGGNET HUBS.

IT ROUTES ALL DATA FLOW WITHIN DR. EGGMAN'S NETWORK. ONCE WE TAKE COMMAND OF THAT, WE COMMAND *ALL* OF HIS INFORMATION.

WITH THAT KIND OF ACCESS, YOU CAN MAKE IT LIKE I NEVER EXISTED. I CAN MOVE FREELY. FINALLY FOCUS ON GETTING REVENGE.

YOU COULD ALSO REWRITE THE COMMAND LINE FOR HIS ARMIES. TURN HIS ENTIRE EMPIRE ON HIM IN AN INSTANT.

THERE ARE FAIL-SAFES, BUT EVERYTHING WITHIN THAT HUB'S REGION WOULD BE PRONE TO EXACTLY THAT.

YOU WOULD GO THAT FAR AGAINST YOUR FORMER MASTER?

YOU CAN'T USE HALF-MEASURES AGAINST DR. EGGMAN. EITHER YOU DEFEAT HIM, OR IT'S *GAME OVER.*

BUT WE *CANNOT* GET THAT FAR WITHOUT THE EDGE GIVEN TO US BY THE CORES.

FINE, FINE.

THEN WE KNOW OUR TARGET FOR TONIGHT. I WILL LEAD YOU IN GLORIOUS COMBAT.

I WILL COMMAND YOU AS I DID THE DEADLY SIX. EACH OF YOU WILL BE USED TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITIES.

YOU WILL FOLLOW MY ORDERS WITHOUT QUESTIONS OR HESITATION. IS THAT CLEAR?

THERE CAN BE NO VICTORY WITHOUT TOTAL OBEDIENCE.

QUITE THE OPPOSITE, BEAST. I'VE BEEN USING YOU FROM THE START, AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES *MY* VICTORY ASSURED.

NO. DON'T DO THAT. THAT'S THE KIND OF EGOTISM THAT LOSES BATTLES. EVERY ONE OF THESE THUGS IS A LIABILITY.

"MIMIC BETRAYED HIS ENTIRE TEAM TO DR. EGGMAN.* HE'S ONLY IN THIS TO BECOME HARDER TO TRACK.

NOW.

*SONIC: TANGLE & WHISPER #1-4!

"HE'S DANGEROUS. TOO DANGEROUS TO LET LOOSE AFTER ALL THIS.

"ROUGH AND TUMBLE ARE DUMB, BLUNT OBJECTS. BUT THEY'RE DRIVEN AND VENGEFUL. JUST THE SORT TO CAUSE PROBLEMS AT THE WRONG TIME.

"IT'D BE SAFER IF THEY WERE ELIMINATED, TOO.

"AND ZAVOK--OH-HO-HO, ZAVOK. EASILY THE MOST DANGEROUS ONE HERE.

"GIVING HIM ANY AMOUNT OF POWER IS A GAMBLE. LETTING HIM KEEP IT? OUT OF THE QUESTION."

I HAD TOYED WITH THE IDEA OF KEEPING SOME OF THEM AROUND. PERHAPS FOLD THEM INTO MY MASTER PROJECT. BUT...

...NO. I CAN'T AFFORD SENTIMENTALITY. ONCE THIS IS OVER, THEY ALL NEED TO BE DISPOSED OF.

THE FORWARD GUARD HAS FALLEN! TUMBLE! GET THEM OVER THE GATE!

GO FOR THE LONG PASS!

I AIN'T GONNA FUMBLE!

KNOCK IT OFF!

DON'T BASH THE GIMMICK OF--!

--ROUGH & TUMBLE!

UUGH

SMOKE-SCREEN COMIN' UP! THEY'LL NEVER SEE YA COMIN'!

SKYOW

SKYOW

C'MON! C'MON! C'MON! OPEN UP! ROUGH'S OVER THERE ON HIS OWN!

IT SEEMS THE GATE MAGNETICALLY LOCKED THE MOMENT THE ALARM WAS SOUNDED.

NO MATTER.

RRUMBLE

YEAH! HE BETTER HAVE SAVED SOME BOTS FOR ME!

MASTERFUL EXECUTION, SIR.

THESE WARRIORS ARE NO DEADLY SIX, BUT THEY'RE... ADEPT.

THIS IS WHY I WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND THIS OVER-RELIANCE ON MACHINES YOU SHARE WITH EGGMAN.

MACHINES ARE EFFICIENT, TIRELESS, AND UNQUESTIONABLY LOYAL.

WHEN PROGRAMMED PROPERLY.

TRAITS I THOUGHT YOU'D HOLD IN HIGH REGARD.

AT THE COST OF FLEXIBILITY, PASSION, AND INGENUITY. ROBOTS ARE FINE TOOLS, BUT ONLY THAT.

STRONG WARRIORS WILL DO EVERYTHING A ROBOT CAN AND MORE.

AND IN THE TIME YOU FIND A DOZEN, I CAN BUILD YOU AN ARMY OF THOUSANDS.

NONE OF THEM WILL DISRESPECT YOU. IGNORE ALL THE WORK YOU'VE DONE. THROW YOU AWAY ONLY BECAUSE YOU DARED TO DISAGREE WITH HIS KNEE-JERK REACTION--!

HE WILL NEVER TAKE YOU BACK.

THAT'S... FINE. WE'RE IN THIS FOR REVENGE, REMEMBER?

MORE IMPORTANTLY-- YOU DON'T *NEED HIM.*

WH-WHAAAAAT ARE YOU...?

YOUR PLAN TO CONTROL THE METAL VIRUS *AND* MY PACK WAS SOLID.

YOU MADE ONE MISCALCULATION WHILE ATTEMPTING TO RIGHT ALL EGGMAN HAD DONE WRONG.

IT WAS *HIS* PLAN, I WAS MERELY ADDING MY NOTES AND...

YOU HAVE GREAT POTENTIAL, DOCTOR. DO NOT LIMIT YOURSELF BY TRYING TO BECOME EGGMAN.

SURPASS HIM.

DARE I THINK SO BRAZENLY? THE MASTER PLAN WAS ALREADY TO... COULD I GO FURTHER AND...?

CAN WE MOVE THIS ALONG? YOU SAID THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A *QUICK* RAID.

...TWENTY-ONE!

YEAH, WELL, I FORGOT ONE!

YOU JUST SAID YOU BUSTED TWENTY!

SO DID I! TWENTY-*TWO*! I WIN!

I REMEMBERED MORE! TWENTY-NINE! I WIN!

BEFORE WE ENTER, CHANGE INTO SONIC AND MOCK THE NEAREST SECURITY CAMERA.

WHY?

MUST YOU QUESTION *EVERY-THING?*

BECAUSE WE WANT EGGMAN TO THINK THIS IS A BIT OF HEROIC VANDALISM. HE WON'T QUESTION IT.

IF HE KNOWS *WE'RE* WORKING AGAINST HIM, HE'LL BEGIN PREPARING COUNTERMEASURES FOR US.

TAKE THE PRESSURE OFF ME AND PUT IT ON SONIC? SURE--I CAN GET BEHIND THAT.

HEY-HEY, EGGY! DID YOU SNEEZE OUT A WIRE BRUSH, OR ARE YOU HAVING A BAD 'STACHE DAY?

OOF

TAGGING OUT!

I'LL HANDLE THIS ONE.

ROAR

IT'S EM-SHIELDED!

IT MUST BE TO PROTECT IT FROM THE CHARGED AIR CAUSED BY THE CORE MANUFAC-TURING!

HOLD UP! THE BOSSES ARE IN TROUBLE!

THAT'S A BIG ONE.

STINK BOMBER WITH A GRAND SLAM?

WORKS FOR ME.

HEY, BOT! OPEN UP WIDE!

YOUR INSIDE'S 'BOUT TO GET JUMBLED!

SPECIAL DELIVERY FROM--

--ROUGH & TUMBLE!

GRAND STINK BOMBER SLAM!

CREEEAK

POP

AW, MAN! IT AIN'T GETTIN' UP AFTER *THAT* ONE!

MUSTA BEEN SOMETHING IT ATE! *HAW!*

I AM HONESTLY IMPRESSED.

I AM TOO, AND I HATE IT.

NO TIME FOR AN ENCORE! LOAD UP AS MANY CRATES OF EACH CORE TYPE AS YOU CAN!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, DOC? THE GOODS ARE THIS WAY.

I'M GOING TO DO MY JOB.

WHICH IS?

ENSURE DR. EGGMAN GETS THE STORY WE *WANT* HIM TO SEE.

DELETE

ON THREE.

ONE.

TWO.

THREE.

WHAM

THERE. "EVIDENCE" OF SONIC'S TRADEMARK SPIN DASH.

BANG-BANG

THE NEXT DAY...

HERE'S THE REPORT, BOSS. IT ISN'T PRETTY.

YOU CALL THIS A REPORT?

IT'S ALL WE HAVE ON FILE, BOSS. BUT IT SEEMS PRETTY CLEAR SONIC IS TO BLAME.

THERE'RE MISSING DATABASES. AND THE SECURITY FOOTAGE IS INCOMPLETE.

WHY?

TO COVER HIS TRACKS?

THEN WHY MOCK ME TO MY OWN SURVEILLANCE CAMERA?

THEN PERHAPS IT WAS TAILS TRYING TO COVER FOR HIM?

PROWER WOULDN'T BE THIS SLOPPY.

NO, SOMETHING ELSE IS GOING ON. AND WHEN I FIND OUT WHO'S UP TO IT, THEY'RE GOING TO PAY DEARLY.

ZAVOK HAS A POINT. NO ROBOT I'VE BUILT WOULD'VE DONE WHAT ROUGH AND TUMBLE DID.

BUT I WON'T ALLOW MYSELF TO RELY ON ANYONE AGAIN. NOT IN THE WAY THE TEAM THINKS I RELY ON THEM NOW.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT ONCE I CAN MOVE FORWARD WITH MY LONG-TERM PLAN.

FOR NOW, I MUST FOCUS ON THE PRESENT...

...TO ENABLE THE FUTURE.

AND I'M ONE STEP CLOSER TO ACHIEVING THAT DREAM NOW THAT I HAVE *THIS!*

A MEANS TO ENSURE I NEVER HAVE TO RELY ON ANYONE AGAIN!

SUCCESS! NOW I CAN CONTEND WITH THE SELF-PROCLAIMED HEROES OF THE WORLD...

...WITH THE POWER OF THE *TRICORE!*

NEXT TIME: POWER GRAB!

NEXT MONTH

ART AARON HAMMERSTROM COLORS MATT HERMS

ART DIANA SKELLY

ART JACK LAWRENCE COLORS LEONARDO ITO

SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

Uh oh… Starline's got some new powers! This isn't good… but something tells me the other Bad Guys have something up their sleeve… Thanks for joining Ian Flynn, Jack Lawrence, Leonardo Ito, and Shawn Lee for the second installment of Sonic the Hedgehog: Bad Guys! *Let's take a look at your letters and get to know a bit more about Jack Lawrence in the brand new "Creator Corner"!*

Greetings IDW Sonic Team!

My name is Despina, I am from Greece and I am 12 years old (my big sister is helping me write this letter). I love drawing Sonic characters and I am very excited to share my drawing of Dr. Starline! He is one of my favorite villains from the series and I'd love to see more of him in the future. I hope you like it!

Thank you IDW Sonic Team for making awesome comics! They inspire me and make my day!

Best Wishes,
Despina

Greetings, Despina!

Wow! It's so cool that Sonic has fans all over the world! The IDW offices are in California, the creators are from the U.S., Canada, England, and many other places, and you're from Greece. Those places may be far apart for us, but I bet Sonic could visit all of us in a second.

I hope you're enjoying Starline in Bad Guys! Thank you for your wonderfully fun drawing and your kind words.

Thanks for joining us, Squad. Don't forget to send your Bad Guys art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, the bad guys test out their enhanced powers!

CREATOR CORNER:

JACK LAWRENCE

1. What part of the Sonic comics do you create?

I do the line drawings, from pencils to finished inks, ready to be sent over to the colorist.

2. Who's your favorite Sonic character in the IDW books?

Mimic. I love how bad he is, and he looks so cool! He's a tiny little bundle of nastiness and I love him!

3. How do you take your chili dog?

I've never eaten a chili dog in my life. They're not a big thing here in the UK. I love a hot dog though; just a bit of mustard on it, thanks.

4. How did you first discover Sonic?

When I was at school, I used to walk through a shopping mall every morning on my way there, and one day this TV display in an electronics shop was playing the demo of the very first Sonic the Hedgehog game. I was 15 at the time and it completely blew me away! I got my first part-time job as a cleaner just so I could earn enough money to buy a Mega Drive so I could play Sonic.

5. What was the first IDW Sonic issue you worked on?

I think I worked on the 2019 Annual first, but issue #15 was my first full issue.

6. What's a boring fact about yourself?

I love putting things into protective things, like putting trading cards into sleeves, or my Funko Pops into Pop Protectors. I could do it all day; it's amazing!

7. What's your favorite comic (besides Sonic)?

My all-time favorite is *Akira*, but my favorite current comic is *My Hero Academia*.

8. What do you do when you're not drawing working on Sonic?

I'll either be preparing for or playing Dungeons and Dragons, probably.

9. What's the most unusual Sonic thing you own?

I have a tiny Chopper toy that came in a little egg full of sweets back in the early 90's. I got it from the shop up the road from school. It was a bit disappointing, because I'd have preferred pretty much any toy except Chopper, so I got another egg a bit later and got, guess what? Another Chopper. Ridiculous.

10. If you could go to dinner with one Sonic character, who would it be and why?

I'd probably go with Silver; he's very sweet and I think he and I would get on really well.

11. What kind of animal would you be in Sonic's universe?

I'd be a badger!

20 YEARS OF IDW

ISSUE 1

COVER A

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THE HEDGEHOG

TANGLE & WHISPER

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TAKE A PEEK AT ANOTHER AWESOME SERIES YOU MAY LIKE...

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SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG TANGLE & WHISPER

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ARTIST **EVAN STANLEY**

COLORIST **MATT HERMS**

LETTERER **SHAWN LEE**

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SPIRAL HILL VILLAGE.

C'MON EVERYONE! IT'S A GORGEOUS DAY!

RACE YA AROUND THE VILLAGE! ANYONE! EVERYONE!

TANGLE!

HEY-HEY, *JEWEL!* ABOUT TIME YOU GOT OUT OF THAT STUFFY OL' MUSEUM!

BECAUSE YOU NEARLY KNOCKED THE SIGN OFF FROM OVER MY DOOR. AND YOU'RE GOING TO RUN INTO SOMEBODY.

PSSHT! I'VE BEEN FLINGING MYSELF AROUND THESE STREETS SINCE WE WERE LITTLE.

I KNOW EVERY ROOFTOP, ALLEY, AND STREET CORNER LIKE THE BACK OF MY—

WHAM

TANGLE.

HEYA, RON. A COUPLE OF CHILIDOGS TO GO...?

LATER—JEWEL'S MINERAL MUSEUM.

HOW'S YOUR HEAD?

NOT AS SORE AS MY PRIDE. AMBUSHED BY A STATIONARY OBJECT. HOW EMBARRASSING IS THAT?

TO BE FAIR, IT WAS HIDING IN FRONT OF A STREET LAMP. CLEARLY IT WAS OUT TO GET YOU.

HA HA OW HA HA

SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN... PRECOCIOUS... BUT YOU'VE BEEN BOUNCING OFF THE WALLS LATELY.

LITERALLY *AND* FIGURATIVELY.

I'M SORRY FOR BEING A PEST, IT'S JUST...

...AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE DONE WITH SONIC, THINGS ARE SO *BORING* HERE!

I FOUGHT ROBOT INVASIONS! FLYING BATTLE SHIPS!

I MET A FIERY PRINCESS FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION!

I PULLED THE WINGS OFF A GIANT ROBO-DRAGON!

AND I COME HOME TO PEACE AND QUIET. I CAN'T STAND IT.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT. SO WHAT'S STOPPING YOU FROM BEING LIKE SONIC? GOING OUT THERE AND FINDING YOUR OWN ADVENTURES?

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT. SURE, IT'S *TEMPTING*, BUT WHAT IF SOMETHING DOES HAPPEN HERE?

EGGMAN'S ROBOTS ATTACKED ONCE.*

IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN.

*SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #4.

AND IT'D BE THE FIRST TIME YOU'D BE FLYING SOLO. LONELY BEFORE YOU EVEN LEAVE?

THAT, AND NERVOUS. I WOULDN'T HAVE YOU TO WATCH MY BACK.

-INFO-

SPLASH

PLEASE DON'T TELL ME THE BABYLON ROGUES CAME BACK!*

I'LL CHECK IT OUT! YOU HIDE AND TRY NOT TO LOOK EXPENSIVE— *HAHA!*

*SONIC THE HEDGEHOG ANNUAL 2019.

SONIC?

SONIC UNDER ATTACK?!

SONIC UNDER ATTACK FROM *WHISPER*?!

20 YEARS OF IDW

ISSUE 1

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TANGLE & WHISPER

TO BE CONTINUED IN...

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG: TANGLE & WHISPER #1

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